

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-05 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

COME-00 SAM-01 NIC-01 /088 W
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R 120930Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1284

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RP, US, UR CH

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECY. ROMULO ON GOP FOREIGN POLICY

1. IN INTERVIEW WITH UPI MARCH 11, FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO CLAIMED GOP RECOGNITION OF PRC AND USSR WOULD "LIFT THE PHILIPPINES OUT OF A COCOON" BUT SAID US REMAINED ON OF PHILIPPINES' "BEST FRIENDS". ROMULO NOTED THAT AT ONE TIME GOP HAD CONCENTRATED ONLY ON US BECAUSE "WE HAD SHUT OUR DOORS TO HALF THE WORLD." FONSEC, SAID EXPANDING TIES WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND TRADE TIES WITH ASIA DID NOT MEAN GOP WAS NEGLECTING OLD FRIENDS.

2. ROMULO STRESSED PRESIDENT MARCOS DOING HIS BEST NOT TO SHOW PREFERENCE FOR EITHER PEKING OR MOSCOW BY SIMULTANEOUS RECOGNITION OF TWO COUNTRIES" "BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THAT CONFLICT." HE ADMITTED SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORILY, HOWEVER, THAT RECOGNITION OF PEKING WOULD COME FIRST SINCE IT IS "NEARER AND IT IS HARD FOR HIM (PRESIDENT MARCOS) TO GO AWAY." ROMULO SAID DRAFT TRADE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND PHILIPPINES BEING WORKED OUT IN NEW YORK AND A TRADE

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AGREEMENT WITH PRC BEING ARRANGED IN TOKYO, ALTHOUGH "NO

DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN YET."

3. ROMULO DESCRIBED TERMINATION OF LAUREL-LANGELY AGREEMENT

A "GOD-SEND" BECAUSE OF HIGH SUGAR PRICES ON WORLD MARKET. HE SAID FILIPINO TRADE WOULD DEPEND ON COUNTRY'S BALANCE OF TRADE. HE SAID TRADE "GOES WHERE THERE ARE THE BEST PROFITS." AND SAID GOP DIVERSIFYING. "THAT IS OUR JOB IN THE DFA. THAT IS WHAT WE CALL OUR ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY."

4. COMMENT. ROMULO INTERVIEW DOES NOT BREAK NEW GROUND, BUT IT DOES HELP PUT PUBLIC BACK IN "SIMULTANEOUS" PERSPECTIVE OF PHILIPPINE MOVES TOWARDS OPENING OF RELATIONS WITH PRC AND USSR.

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